

FW: Bowman call

From: "Jones, Mike" <mike.jones@ps-sp.gc.ca>
To: "Mendicino, Marco - Personal" <[redacted]@parl.gc.ca>
Date: Wed, 23 Feb 2022 19:06:00 +0000

From: Jones, Mike
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 2:06 PM
To: 'Brodhead, John' <John.Brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: Savard-Shaw, Julie <Julie.Savard-Shaw@PS-SP.GC.CA>; Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>
Subject: Bowman call

Hey,

Further to my texts—the call went well. Broadly positive and they sound comfortable. The current levels are decreasing and they expect resolution shortly. Said they would speak positively about federal government support and will reference the call at city council tomorrow.

Full Readout:

M3

Wanted to check in and see if Winnipeg needed any further support from RCMP or other law enforcement?

Bowman:

We indicated yesterday that they were notifying that were occupying the streets around our provincial legislature that the time to go head to head and that they might use the powers that you afforded them under the emergencies act. I'm not sure if they've exercised them or not but today they just held a press conference, and they indicated this was a successful blueprint for similar occupations going forward because it appears to have ended peacefully.

Our community isn't aligned with that assessment. There's been a lot of harassment noise. Folks are not happy that it was able to continue for three weeks.

And so I think you guys have done what you could to help there. I want to say thank you. I've watched your work and really appreciate how you navigated it. I think it did provide assistance. It sent a signal to law enforcement but also sends a signal mostly to the protesters to get off our streets and that that's not something we really got from our provincial government until recent days where they kind of said it's time to go

M3:

I appreciate the candid assessment and I totally appreciate as well as the frustration, because, you know, at a certain point in time, you look to law enforcement to uphold the law. And that's one of the reasons why we very reluctantly had to reach into the legislative toolbox and pull out the EA because clearly they just weren't able to express the kind of deterrence and condemnation and

repercussion, if with other criminal code and other provincial statutes. So I've taken note of that. I do understand that, that that Winnipeg Police did issue cautions, and they did make this is what I'm told from RCMP a specific reference to the EA. So and I that's what I've been told is that what you understand?

Bowman:

They said that they may utilize those tools. So at bare minimum of the threat of law enforcement exercising the powers that you afforded them were a deterrent. Everybody saw what was going on in Ottawa that EA had been invoked. So it was heard by the protesters, and they got the message. So I think it provided assistance. I've been communicating that as well and continue to communicate that because I know you're under fire from opposition. But in our case, I think it provided assistance and really do appreciate that.

M3:

that's good to hear. What's the current set rep right now on the ground like? Is the footprint shrinking? Are things under control?

Bowman:

I'm actually watching a live feed as we speak, and there's a few tractors, trucks they appear to be moving just off the street on Memorial Park, which is kind of similar to Queen's Park, I guess, which is fine. We have protests there all the time, as long as they're off the street. So it does appear there's a handful of, of tractors, on the boulevards, like Broadway, which is the street right in front of our legislature. So they appear to be moving. So I'm anticipating by the end of the day, they'll be gone which is great.

M3:

Is there anything else we can do? I mean, look you were saying that we're under fire. And that just comes with the territory, but quite apart from that, I will say that we are, reassessing in real time, all of the factors that go into whether or not there's still a national state of emergency so that we can pull it back as soon as possible. My sense is that as the footprint is shrinking, and in Winnipeg, your service and hopefully others are better positioned to stamp down any kind of a pop up

Bowman:

the concern for us is that our police services indicated this is a successful model today. So three weeks of unlawful occupation on public streets is acceptable to our police service going forward. So that the risk the danger I see is we're going to get other others that are like we have we regularly have rights activists who will expect the same treatment and so the precedent that's been set so you know.

M3:

Well, I think you also raise a really important concern that anytime you've got the service that stating publicly that this is the gold standard, that three weeks of occupation is reasonable, I'm not sure that we're doing ourselves any favors in terms of the precedent that it sets for future causes that may try to cause disturbances and breach the peace and worse. So, I think that's a really, really important point. I also think, speaking candidly here in Ottawa, when the former police chief had said that there were no policing solutions to what was going on here that it really enabled the occupation to dig in. So you're right, it's going to have to be addressed in the context of the review.

I also think--and it's very much a matter for your council and very much a matter for Windsor police service—but to look at governance and accountability around those types of statements. There's a pretty intense discussion that's going on here in Ottawa, including comments from participants around these divisions.

M3

Well, let's stay in touch. Don't hesitate to reach out. All the best.

Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Public Safety
Government of Canada
Tel: Irrel Irrel Irrel

Chef de Cabinet, Cabinet du ministre de la Sécurité publique
Gouvernement du Canada
Tél.: Irrel Irrel Irrel